Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 15182

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CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PEPR PGOV EG IS US
SUBJECT: REVISED EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL

REF: (A) CAIRO 14781, (B) CAIRO 14943, (C) CAIRO 13117

1. DURING MY MEETING TODAY WITH FONMIN KAMEL (AND AHMED MAHER), KAMEL GAVE ME REVISED EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL ON WEST BANK/GAZA THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED. KAMEL SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE CONSIDERED VARIOUS WAYS TO FLESH OUT THE DOCUMENT.

2. HE DREW MY ATTENTION TO SEVERAL POINTS IN PARTICULAR:

A. IN PARA 2, EGYPTIANS HAD CONSIDERED USING ASWAN FORMULA, WHICH KAMEL ADMITTED SADAT HAD ACCEPTED, BUT HAD DECIDED AGAINST THIS. GOE'S INITIATING USE OF ASWAN FORMULA IN A FORMAL DOCUMENT ON WEST BANK/GAZA, WHEN THIS HAS NOT BEEN AGREED TO BY JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, PALES-TINIANS AND OTHER ARAB STATES, WOULD RESULT IN SHARP ARAB CRITICISM. HE RECALLED THAT GOE IS NOT MANDATED BY ANYONE TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK, HENCE GOE MUST BE PRUDENT IN WHAT IT PUTS FORWARD. SOMEONE ELSE, LIKE USG,
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CAN PRESS GOE TO ACCEPT ASWAN FORMULA, BUT IT CANNOT AT THIS STAGE PUT IT FORWARD. INSTEAD, GOE LANGUAGE CALLS FOR "PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE."

B. IN PARA 3 GOE DECIDED TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO DISCUSSING TIMETABLE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL (SUBPARA B).

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IN CONSIDERING HOW TO HANDLE PRINCIPLES TO BE APPLIED TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES QUESTION, IT HAD DECIDED THAT FROM AN ARAB SENSIBILITIES POINT OF VIEW THIS MIGHT BEST BE PHRASED "MODALITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES" (SUBPARA D). GOE HAD ALSO CONSIDERED WHETHER TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO CONTINUING ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS, BUT HAD DECIDED AGAINST DOING SO. HE RECALLED EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH ATHERTON AND ME ON THIS POINT DURING OUR MEETING WITH SADAT AND HIM AT HURGHADA. HE NOTED THAT SUBJECT COULD BE DISCUSSED UNDER GOE'S CATCHALL SUBPARA 3 RE OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY ALL PARTIES.

C. IN PARA 4, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE IDEA OF ISRAEL BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN MILITARY FORCES IN WEST BANK/GAZA DURING TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, SADAT HAD CDNCLUDED THAT GOE SHOULD NOT FORMALLY PROPOSE THIS. IT IS SOMETHING THAT USG COULD PRESS ON EGYPT. ALSO, CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO DROPPING ANY REFERENCE TO SETTLEMENTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT PREJUDICING GOE OR ARAB POSITION. LAST NIGHT, HOWEVER, SADAT HAD SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED THAT REFERENCE TO WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BE INCLUDED. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD SIMPLY INVITE CRITICISM NOT ONLY FROM ARAB RADICALS, BUT FROM FRIENDS
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SUCH AS JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

3. KAMEL STATED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SPECIFICALLY APPROVED THE REVISED DRAFT.

4. SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK US NOT RPT NOT TO CONVEY THE REVISED PROPOSAL TO THE ISRAELIS UNTIL AFTER THEY HAVE RESPONDED TO USG QUESTIONS. IF WE DO SO PRIOR TO THAT TIME, SADAT FEARS THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL USE THIS TO DELAY STILL LONGER GIVING ANSWERS TO THE TWO USG QUESTIONS. I TOLD KAMEL THAT OUR PRESENT TENTATIVE THINKING IS TO GIVE ANY REVISED EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE ISRAELIS A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE PROPOSED LONDON MEETING, IF SUCH A MEETING IS AGREED UPON, IS TO TAKE PLACE (SEPTEL). KAMEL SAID THAT IF ISRAELI REPLIES ARE NON-SUBSTANTIVE, THERE MAY BE NO POINT IN PROVIDING EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL. I URGED THAT HE KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THIS, SINCE AN EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL COULD BE A USEFUL RESPONSE TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING.

5. KAMEL SAID GOE WILL WELCOME ANY USG REACTION TO REVISED EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO

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BE INFORMED WHEN AND IF IT IS CONVEYED TO THE ISRAELIS. (COMMENT: SINCE THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY AT THIS TIME WHETHER GOE WILL AGREE TO LONDON MEETING, SUGGEST WE CHECK OUT AGAIN WITH KAMEL JUST BEFORE WE PROPOSE TO CONVEY DOCUMENT TO ISRAELIS, ASSUMING OF COURSE WE CONCLUDE LATEST REVISION IS ONE WE SHOULD GIVE TO THE ISRAELIS. ISRAELI RESPONSES TO THE TWO QUESTIONS WILL ALSO BE A DETERMINING FACTOR WITH GOE ON WHETHER WE SHOULD TRANMIT THE COUNTERPROPOSAL.)

6. AM SENDING REVISED EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL BY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SEPTEL. EILTS

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